



# ***COMMITTEE of the WHOLE***

## ***CITY COUNCIL***

### **MINUTES**

**January 20, 2009**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

V. Spencer (via conference call), S. Fuhs, D. Sterner, M. Baez

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, C. Younger, C. Kanezo, R. Hottenstein, D. Binder, D. Hoag, C. Jones, M. Vind, representatives of Hill/Weston, representative of Black & Veatch

Mr. Fuhs, Vice President of Council, called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

#### **I. Executive Session**

Council entered executive session at 5:57 pm to discuss litigation. Council exited executive session at 6:15 pm

#### **II. Waste Water Treatment Plant**

The project manager gave a brief update on the project. He noted that the financial work has begun. He noted that there is State funding available. The Penn Vest application process has begun. He indicated that \$20 million per phase can be awarded. He also noted the H2O PA financing available. This money is available from gaming in PA and is an additional \$20 million. He noted the deadline for application review by the Berks County Planning Commission is February 13 and is confident that the deadline can be met.

Mr. Spencer questioned the involvement of Reading's State delegation. Mr. Binder stated that he has been working closely with Rep. Caltagirone and Sen. O'Pake.

Mr. Spencer questioned who would work the application through the process once it is submitted. The project manager noted that he cannot. Mr. Hottenstein indicated that he is looking at possible choices, including an advocate or lobbyist.

Mr. Sterner questioned if federal funding was available. Mr. Binder noted that there is no firm federal funding available at this time. He is staying abreast of the situation.

Mr. Vind informed Council that the H2O grant is a matching grant. He indicated that the City would need to issue more debt by the end of 2009. The amount would be based on the funding schedule of the project manager.

Mr. Spencer inquired if Mr. Kanezo has been representing the City's interests in this funding issue in meetings in Harrisburg. Mr. Kanezo replied that he has not been attending meetings in Harrisburg about this issue specifically.

Mr. Spencer questioned who was performing the duties of the Finance Director. Mr. Hottenstein noted that Mr. Kanezo, Ms. Cieniewicz, Ms. Weidel, and Ms. Dunkle are sharing the responsibilities at this time.

Mr. Spencer stated his hope that the lines of communication would remain open.

Mr. Fuhs questioned the progress of the value engineering process. The project manager indicated that it is almost complete. He noted that a final workshop will be held on Monday, January 26. He noted that 30 initiatives will be discussed – 25 are cost savings.

A more in-depth presentation will be made at the February work session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk